

Convolvulus spithameus. The writer collected this species on a low gravel ridge in Franklin, in June, 1908, and has observed it growing at the same station nearly every year since that date. This appears to be the only station reported from Eastern Connecticut.

Pedicularis lanceolata. Franklin, frequent by streams and on low grounds.

Bidens Eatoni. Old Lyme, in brackish marshes, where it grows among tall grasses and sedges, and is not easy to detect till late in the season. The writer's first collection was made September 29, 1915. Professor M. L. Fernald states that the Lyme plant is "perfectly good *Bidens Eatoni*; exactly like the plant from the Merrimac marshes."

Helenium nudiflorum. A colony of several hundred plants in a remote pasture, at Old Lyme.

Lapsana communis. Well established in Franklin, where the writer has collected it for several years. New Haven is the only station reported in the Connecticut Catalogue.

Sonchus arvensis. Old Lyme, on gravelly shores.

Specimens of the above plants, with three exceptions, have been deposited in the Gray Herbarium, and the remaining plants will be deposited later.

NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT.

NOTE ON THE PROPER NAME FOR THE SASSAFRAS.—The scientific name of the common Sassafras, which has suffered at least two alterations within the past four decades, must once more be changed, although the name to be adopted is fortunately that by which the species has been most universally known. The plant was originally described by Linnaeus as *Laurus Sassafras* (Sp. i. 371 (1753)). Salisbury, in pursuance of that policy of "improving" scientific names to which he seems to have given freer rein than almost any other of the early botanists, based the new name *Laurus variifolia* (Prod. 344 (1796)) on *Laurus Sassafras* L. Sp. ed. 2. 530, without a word of description or annotation. His name is consequently a perfect example of the class of still-born names (*nomina abortiva*), which according to the International Rules of Nomenclature, as finally drawn up in 1910, are incapable of adoption unless employed by the first author who transferred the plant to its accepted position. The name *Sassafras*

variifolium (Salisb.) Ktze. Rev. i. 574 (1891), now used by those who follow the Vienna Rules and reject the tautonym *Sassafras Sassafras* (L.) Karst. Deutsch. Fl. 505 (1880–83), must accordingly be dropped. The valid name to replace it is *SASSAFRAS OFFICINALE* Nees & Eberm. Handb. Med.-Pharm. Bot. ii. 418 (1831), a name given when the species was transferred from *Laurus* to *Sassafras*. It should be mentioned, in explanation of the use of *S. variifolium* (Salisb.) Ktze. in the seventh edition of Gray's Manual (1908), that at the time the Manual was prepared the status of the class of names known as *nomina abortiva* was still under discussion and no legislation regarding them had been incorporated in the International Code.

The subglabrous and more or less glaucous variety, recently discussed by Prof. Fernald in *RHODORA*, should be called

SASSAFRAS OFFICINALE Nees & Eberm. var. **albidum** (Nutt.) comb. nov.—*Laurus* (*Euosmus*) *albida* Nutt. Gen. i. 259 (1818). *Sassafras variifolium* (Salisb.) Ktze. var. *albidum* (Nutt.) Fernald, *RHODORA* xv. 16 (1913), q. v. for full synonymy.

Mention should be made of an earlier and (by International Rules) untenable use of the name *Sassafras officinalis* by Siebold in 1830. It occurs in his synopsis of the economic plants of Japan (*Verh. Batav. Genootsch.* xii. 23 (1830)), as follows.

“*Sassafras*, Sieb.

“*S. officinalis*, Sieb. *Siromotsi*, Japon. (v. v. h. b.).

“*Sijnon*: *Laurus Sassafras* P. S. . . .

“*S. Thunbergii*, Sieb. *Kuromotsi*, Japon. (v. v. h. b.).

“*Sijnon*: *Lindera umbellata*, Th. . . .”

As Siebold's use of the name *Sassafras*, although apparently the earliest in postlinnaean times, is unaccompanied by diagnosis or reference to an earlier generic name, it is not valid according to the International Rules. His name *S. officinalis*, although based on *Laurus Sassafras* P(ers.) S(yn. i. 450 (1805)), must consequently be disregarded. The plant really intended by Siebold is of course not our *Sassafras*, which does not grow in Japan, but is, according to the *Index Kewensis*, *Lindera triloba* Blume, while his *S. Thunbergii* is *Lindera umbellata* Thunb.—S. F. BLAKE, Gray Herbarium.